



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,338	09/10/2003	Michael W. Bosse	23122.01	1867
29891	7590	01/30/2006	EXAMINER	
LAURA M. HAGAN			BLAKE, CAROLYN T	
1025 STATE STREET			ART UNIT	
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101			PAPER NUMBER	

3724

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/658,338

Applicant(s)

BOSSE, MICHAEL W.

Examiner

Carolyn T. Blake

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 12, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections in Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen (D272,712). See the *Figures* section at the end of this Office action.

Regarding claim 1, Allen teaches a lock removal tool (1), comprising: an elongated bar (2) having a first end and a second end; a lock cutting tool (3) disposed on the first end of said bar (2), the lock cutting tool (3) being a generally rectangular, flat plate having leading (4) and trailing edges (5) and top and bottom surfaces, said bar (2) being joined to the lock cutting tool (3) generally between the leading (4) and trailing (5) edges, said bar (2) being angled away from the top surface and extending rearward from the lock cutting tool (3); a tool piece (6) extending from the second end of said bar (2) axially aligned with said bar (2); a first impact collar (7) disposed on said bar (2) near the first end; a second impact collar (8) disposed on said bar near the second end; and

Art Unit: 3724

a weight (9) slidably disposed on said bar (2) between the first (7) and second (8) impact collars. Note: impact collars (7, 8) are defined as such because they are circular members that impact the tool piece (6) and the lower collar.

Regarding claim 6, Allen teaches the leading edge (4) of said lock cutting tool (3) is bifurcated to form a cutting slot (10), the cutting slot (10) being a generally "V" shaped slot having inner edges.

Regarding claim 7, the top surface of the lock cutting tool (3) is tapered along the leading edge (4).

Regarding claim 8, Allen teaches the leading edge (4) of said lock cutting tool (3) is bifurcated to form a cutting slot (10) being a generally "V" shaped slot having inner edges, the top surface of said cutting tool being tapered along the inner edges (11) of said cutting slot (10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue (3,568,657) in view of Gallo (6,308,934).

Regarding claim 1, Gue discloses a lock removal tool comprising: an elongated bar (10) having a first end and a second end; a lock cutting tool (20) disposed on the first end of said bar (10), a tool piece (18) extending from the second end of said bar (10) axially aligned with said bar (10); a first impact collar (24) disposed on said bar (10) near the first end; a second impact collar (22) disposed on said bar (10) near the second end; and a weight (26) slidably disposed on said bar (10) between the first (24) and second (22) impact collars. Gue fails to disclose the lock cutting tool is a generally

Art Unit: 3724

rectangular, flat plate joined to the bar between its leading and trailing edges. However, Gallo discloses a lock removal tool comprising an elongated bar (12) having a first end and a second end; a lock cutting tool (18) disposed on the first end of said bar (12), the lock cutting tool (18) being a generally rectangular, flat plate having leading (20) and trailing edges and top and bottom surfaces, said bar (12) being joined to the lock cutting tool (18) generally between the leading and trailing edges, said bar (12) being angled away from the top surface and extending rearward from the lock cutting tool (18); a first impact collar (14) disposed on said bar (12) near the first end; a second impact collar (16) disposed on said bar (12) near the second end; and a weight (32) slidably disposed on said bar (12) between the first (14) and second (16) impact collars. Unlike the Gue device, the lock cutting tool of the Gallo device allows for prying of the lock from the door. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a different lock cutting tool, as disclosed by Gallo, on the Gue device for the purpose of cutting and prying the lock from the door.

Regarding claim 2, Gue discloses the tool piece (18) comprises a length of metal stock (specifically steel). See col. 1, line 56.

Regarding claim 6, Gallo discloses the leading edge (20) of the lock cutting tool (18) is bifurcated to form a cutting slot (22), the cutting slot (22) being a generally "V" shaped slot having inner edges.

Regarding claim 7, Gallo discloses the top surface of the lock cutting tool (18) is tapered along the leading edges.

Art Unit: 3724

Regarding claim 8, Gallo discloses the leading edge of the lock cutting tool (18) is bifurcated to form a cutting slot (22), the cutting slot being a generally "V" shaped slot having inner edges, the top surface of said cutting tool (18) being tapered along the inner edges of the cutting slot (22).

Regarding claim 13, Gallo discloses the bar (12) and the lock cutting tool (18) are joined at an angle of between 15 and 45 degrees.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Allen (D272,712). The cross sections in FIGS 2A and 4 appear to be metal. Therefore, there is a high probability the entire tool, including the tool piece, is formed from metal. However, to the degree it can be argued this is speculative, Official notice is taken it is old and well known in the art to form threaded nuts, such as the tool piece (6), of metal. Therefore, to form parts of metal would have been obvious in order to make the entire tool from metal and long lasting.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue in view of Gallo applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view Skamser (D153,182).

Regarding claim 3, Gue in view of Gallo fails to disclose the metal stock is square. However, Skamser discloses a tool piece wherein the metal stock is square. See bottom of FIGS 1 and 2. Considering a manufacturing standpoint, the square stock would be easier to machine than the round stock used in the Gue and Gallo devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

Art Unit: 3724

invention was made to use square stock for the tool piece, as disclosed by Skamser, on the Gue in view of Gallo device for the purpose of easily machining the device.

Regarding claim 4, Gue discloses the metal stock is tapered to define a blade (18).

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kraus (4,235,269). Allen teaches the second end of said bar (2) has a tool piece receptacle defined therein, but fails to teach a set screw. However, Kraus discloses a set screw aperture and a set screw (16) engaging the set screw aperture, whereby a tool piece is removably retained. The set screw (16) secures the removable component in place until it is desired to detach it. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a set screw and aperture, as disclosed by Kraus, on the Allen device for the purpose of securing the removable component until it is desired to detach it.

8. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue in view of Gallo as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kraus (4,235,269). Gue in view of Gallo fails to disclose a tool piece receptacle or a set screw. However, Kraus discloses a tool piece receptacle that allows the tip of the tool piece (1) to be removed from the bar (20). Making the tool piece removable allows the part to be changed according to the operator's needs. See Abstract. In addition, Kraus discloses a set screw aperture and a set screw (16) engaging the set screw aperture, whereby a tool piece (1) is removably retained. The set screw (16) secures the removable component

Art Unit: 3724

in place until it is desired to detach it. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide tool piece receptacle and set screw, as disclosed by Kraus, on the Gue in view of Gallo device for the purposes of replacing and securing the tool piece.

9. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lampe (6,213,527).

Regarding claim 9, Allen fails to teach the top surface of the lock removal tool is tapered along the trailing edge. However, Lampe discloses a lock removal tool with an elongated bar (1) and a lock cutting tool (2). The top surface of the lock cutting tool (2) is tapered along the trailing edge (22). This feature creates a sharpened surface that allows the trailing edge to perform different tasks, such as chopping (col. 4, lines 16-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a tapered trailing edge, as disclosed by Lampe, on the Allen device for the purpose of creating two operable edges on the lock cutting tool.

Regarding claim 11, Allen fails to teach at least one groove formed in the top surface of the cutting tool. However, Lampe discloses a cutting tool (2) with at least one groove (8) extending transversely across the top surface. The grooves (8) grip and provide friction when an object is place on top of the tool. See FIGS. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one groove, as disclosed by Lampe, on the Allen device for the purpose of gripping an object on top of the top.

Art Unit: 3724

10. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue in view of Gallo as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lampe.

Regarding claim 9, Gue in view of Gallo fails to disclose the top surface of the lock removal tool is tapered along the trailing edge. However, Lampe discloses a lock removal tool with an elongated bar (1) and a lock cutting tool (2). The top surface of the lock cutting tool (2) is tapered along the trailing edge (22). This feature creates a sharpened surface that allows the trailing edge to perform different tasks, such as chopping (col. 4, lines 16-18). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a tapered trailing edge, as disclosed by Lampe, on the Gue in view of Gallo device for the purpose of creating two operable edges on the lock cutting tool.

Regarding claim 11, Gue in view of Gallo fails to disclose at least one groove formed in the top surface of the cutting tool. However, Lampe discloses a cutting tool (2) with at least one groove (8) extending transversely across the top surface. The grooves (8) grip and provide friction when an object is placed on top of the tool. See FIGS. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one groove, as disclosed by Lampe, on the Gue in view of Gallo device for the purpose of gripping an object on top of the top.

11. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen ('712) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Allen (D262,513). Allen ('712) fails to teach the bottom surface of the cutting tool is curved at the leading edge. However, Allen ('513) teaches a lock removal tool wherein the bottom surface of the

Art Unit: 3724

cutting tool is curved at the leading edge. See FIG 1. The curved bottom surface allows for a rocking motion during lock removal that would ease the process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a curved bottom surface on the leading edge of the lock cutting tool, as taught by Allen ('513), on the Allen ('712) device in order to ease the removal purpose through rocking.

12. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue in view of Gallo as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Allen ('513). Gue in view of Gallo fails to disclose the bottom surface of the cutting tool is curved at the leading edge. However, Allen teaches a lock removal tool wherein the bottom surface of the cutting tool is curved at the leading edge. See FIG 1. The curved bottom surface allows for a rocking motion during lock removal that would ease the process. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a curved bottom surface on the leading edge of the lock cutting tool, as taught by Allen, on the Gue in view of Gallo device in order to ease the removal purpose through rocking.

13. Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Harpell (6,098,292).

Regarding claim 12, Allen fails to teach at least one groove formed in the bottom surface of the cutting tool. However, Harpell discloses a cutting tool (3) with at least one groove (41) extending transversely across the bottom surface. The groove strengthens the tool (col. 4, lines 23-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one

Art Unit: 3724

of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one groove on the bottom surface of the cutting tool, as disclosed by Harpell, on the Allen device for the purpose of strengthening the tool.

Regarding claim 13, Allen fails to teach the bar and lock cutting tool are joined at an angle between 15 and 45 degrees. However, Harpell discloses a removal tool wherein a bar and a cutting tool are joined at an angle of between 15 and 45 degrees. See col. 5, lines 32-36. This angle is particularly useful for demolition work, especially prying (col. 5, lines 36-42). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide an angle of 15 to 45 degrees between the bar and lock cutting tool, as disclosed by Harpell, on the Allen device for the purpose of effectively prying the lock from the door.

14. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue in view of Gallo as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Harpell. Gue in view of Gallo fails to disclose at least one groove formed in the bottom surface of the cutting tool. However, Harpell discloses a cutting tool (3) with at least one groove (41) extending transversely across the bottom surface. The groove strengthens the tool (col. 4, lines 23-27). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide at least one groove on the bottom surface of the cutting tool, as disclosed by Harpell, on the Gue in view of Gallo device for the purpose of strengthening the tool.

15. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gue in view of Gallo and Harpell.

Regarding claim 14, Gue discloses a lock removal tool comprising: an elongated bar (10) having a first end and a second end; a lock cutting tool (20) disposed on the first end of said bar (10); a tool piece (18) extending from the second end of said bar (10) axially aligned with said bar (10); a first impact collar (24) disposed on said bar (10) near the first end; a second impact collar (22) disposed on said bar (10) near the second end; and a weight (26) slidably disposed on said bar (10) between the first (24) and second (22) impact collars.

Gue fails to disclose the lock cutting tool is a generally rectangular, flat plate joined to the bar between its leading and trailing edges. However, Gallo discloses a lock removal tool comprising an elongated bar (12) having a first end and a second end; a lock cutting tool (18) disposed on the first end of said bar (12), the lock cutting tool (18) being a generally rectangular, flat plate having leading (20) and trailing edges and top and bottom surfaces, said bar (12) being joined to the lock cutting tool (18) generally between the leading and trailing edges, said bar (12) being angled away from the top surface and extending rearward from the lock cutting tool (18); a first impact collar (14) disposed on said bar (12) near the first end; a second impact collar (16) disposed on said bar (12) near the second end; and a weight (32) slidably disposed on said bar (12) between the first (14) and second (16) impact collars. Unlike the Gue device, the lock cutting tool of the Gallo device allows for prying of the lock from the door. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a different lock cutting tool, as disclosed by Gallo, on the Gue device for the purpose of cutting and prying the lock from the door.

The Gue-Gallo still fails to disclose a recess as claimed. However, Harpell discloses a lock cutting tool (3) disposed on a first end of a bar (9), the lock cutting tool (3) being a generally rectangular, flat plate having leading and trailing edges and top and bottom surfaces, said bar being joined to the lock cutting tool generally between the leading and trailing edges, said bar being angled away from the top surface and extending rearward from the lock cutting tool. If the Gue-Gallo cutting tool is replaced with the Harpell cutting tool, a recess would be formed as claimed. Furthermore, the Harpell cutting tool may be advantageous for use on a different work product, and may be easier to manufacture because it would not require an involved bending or casting operation. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a different cutting tool, such as the one disclosed by Harpell, on the Gue-Gallo combination for the purpose of easing manufacturing.

Response to Arguments

16. Applicant's arguments filed January 12, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues Allen and Gallo disclose pry bars, whereas Applicant's invention does not. However, the instant invention does appear to be a pry bar, as shown in FIG 9. Furthermore, to the extent this can be argued, both Allen and Gallo are capable of cutting a lock. As such, the claims do not read over the prior art of record.

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

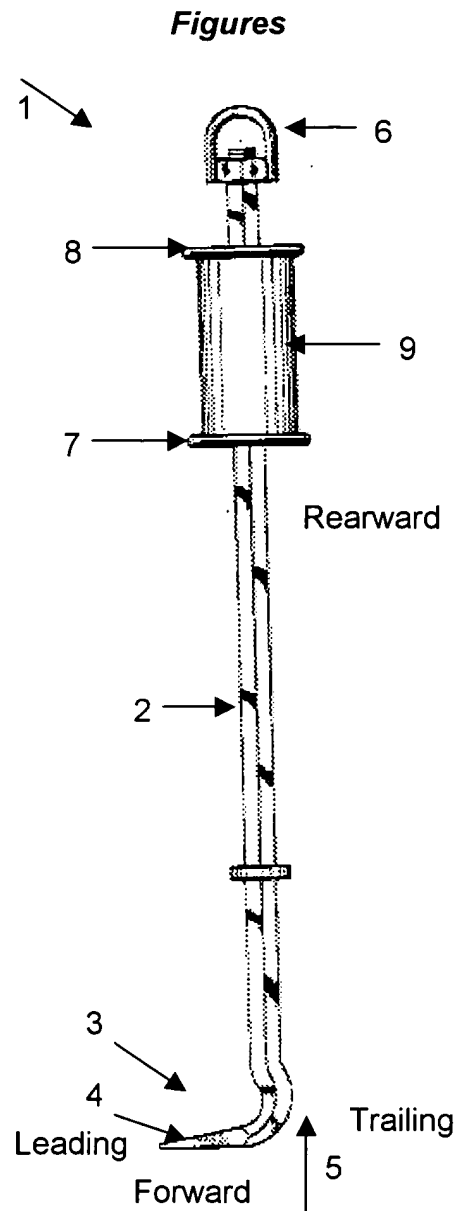


Figure 1 of D272,712 to Allen. Lead lines, reference numbers, and directions added by the examiner.

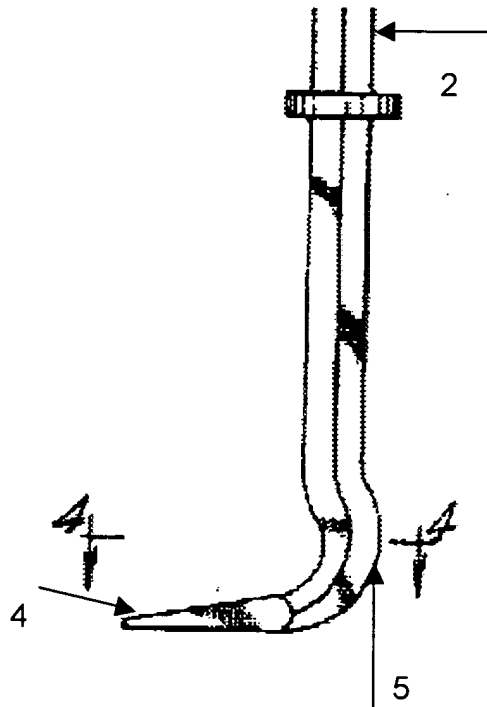
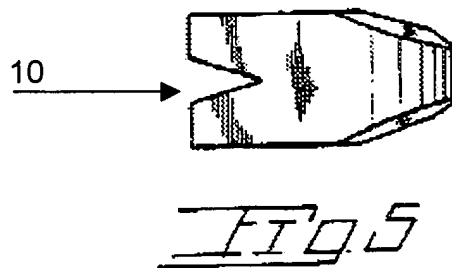
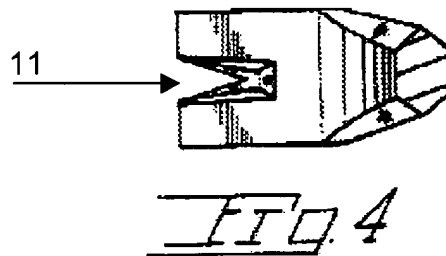


Figure 1 (enlarged) of D272,712 to Allen. Lead lines and reference numbers added by the examiner.



Figures 4 and 5 of D272,712 to Allen. Lead lines and reference numbers added by the examiner.

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn T. Blake whose telephone number is (571) 272-4503. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on (571) 272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



CB
January 20, 2006



Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700